

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following listing of claims for the previous listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A handheld aerosolization apparatus comprising:
a housing defining a chamber having a plurality of air inlets, the chamber being sized to receive a capsule receptacle which contains an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation;
a puncturing mechanism in the housing for creating one or more openings in the capsule;
a shield which covers at least one but not all of the air inlets, whereby the shield prevents blockage of the at least one air inlet by a user grasping the apparatus;
and
an end section associated with the housing, the end section sized and shaped to be received in a user's mouth or nose so that the user may inhale through the end section to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation and to inhale aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation that has exited the receptacle.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.
3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the end section is removably connected to the housing and wherein the end section may be removed from the housing to provide access to the chamber.
4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.
5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the shield comprises at least two covering portions, each covering portion covering at least one inlet.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5 wherein there are two covering portions and wherein the two covering portions are diametrically opposed.
7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the at least two covering portions are separated by open portions.
8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the open portions provide direct access to at least one inlet.
9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the shield extends longitudinally along the apparatus.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 ~~40~~ wherein the puncture member is adapted to puncture only one end of the capsule.
12. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 ~~40~~ wherein the chamber is elongated and wherein the capsule is received lengthwise within the elongated chamber.
13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the inlet is shaped to create a swirling airflow within the chamber.

14. (Currently amended) A handheld aerosolization apparatus comprising:
a housing defining a chamber having a plurality of air inlets, the chamber being sized to receive a capsule receptacle which contains an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation;
a puncturing mechanism in the housing for creating one or more openings in the capsule;
a shield which covers a portion of but not all of at least one of the air inlets; and
an end section associated with the housing, the end section sized and shaped to be received in a user's mouth or nose so that the user may inhale through the end section to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation and to inhale aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation that has exited the receptacle.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the end section is removably connected to the housing and wherein the end section may be removed from the housing to provide access to the chamber.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the inlet is shaped to create a swirling airflow within the chamber.

19-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) A method of aerosolizing a pharmaceutical formulation, the method comprising:

- providing a capsule containing an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation in a chamber, the chamber having a plurality of air inlets;
- puncturing the capsule within the chamber;
- shielding at least one but not all of the air inlets from being blocked by a user grasping the chamber;
- aerosolizing the pharmaceutical formulation by using the user's inhalation to cause air to flow through the chamber; and
- administering the aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation to the respiratory tract of a user during the user's inhalation.

25-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method of aerosolizing a pharmaceutical formulation, the method comprising:

- providing a capsule containing an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation and inserting the capsule in a chamber, the chamber having one or more air inlets;
- shielding only a portion of at least one of the air inlets from being blocked by a user grasping the chamber;
- aerosolizing the pharmaceutical formulation by using the user's inhalation to cause air to flow through the chamber; and
- administering the aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation to the respiratory tract of a user during the user's inhalation.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 ~~29~~ further comprising puncturing the capsule within the chamber.

31. (Cancelled)